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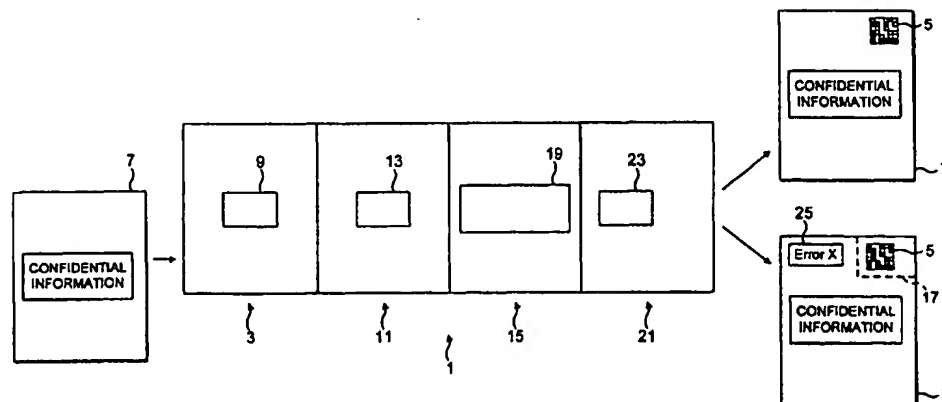
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ning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: ITEM HANDLING SYSTEM AND METHOD



(57) Abstract: An item handling system for and method of handling items in an item stream, the system comprising: a validation unit for validating an element containing an authentication code on each item in an item stream, wherein an item is assigned as being spoiled where the element does not satisfy at least one validation criterion; and a sorting unit for separating spoiled items from the item stream.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC		
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Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched		
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<b>C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT</b>		
Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5 898 153 A (LAGAN THOMAS A ET AL) 27 April 1999 (1999-04-27)	1-7, 48-54, 94,95, 99-104, 106,108
A	column 3, line 44 -column 4, line 5	8-47, 55-93, 96-98, 105,107, 109
	column 5, line 60 -column 6, line 4	
X	GB 2 174 039 A (PITNEY BOWES) 29 October 1986 (1986-10-29) page 2, line 103 -page 3, line 125; figures 2-4	1-10, 48-57
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	-/-	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Patent family members are listed in annex.		
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Name and mailing address of the ISA European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016		Authorized officer Reule, D

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